

10. (New Claim) A method for transferring a plurality of pipette tips from a container to a holding tray, comprising the steps of:

providing a stack of receiving plates and pipette tips in a container,

each of said pipette tips having a first end and a second end spaced from said first end,

said first end having an opening extending into said pipette tip,

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said container having a volume to hold a first receiving plate with a first plurality of pipette tips disposed in a first pattern thereon and a second receiving plate with a second plurality of pipette tips disposed in said first pattern thereon and arranged to be nested into the openings of said first plurality of pipette tips, said container including a base having a length and a width, a pair of opposing side walls and a pair of opposing end walls arranged to define said volume, said side walls each having a cut-out portion formed therein, said container further having support means positioned within said container proximate said base and connected to one of said side walls, said end walls and said base, said support means being positioned for elevating said first receiving plate above said base;

providing a transfer member that is shaped to fit within said container, said transfer member

having an upper surface and a lower surface and a plurality of projections arranged in said first pattern, each projection of said plurality of projections extending from said lower surface a preselected distance to affect stable engagement with a corresponding pipette tip when said projection is received into said opening of said pipette tip;

providing a holding tray positioned on a support surface, said holding tray having an upper wall spaced from said support surface and a plurality of apertures extending through said upper wall and arranged in said first pattern;

grasping said transfer member with the thumb and forefinger of a user and positioning said transfer member over said container;

aligning the projections of said transfer member with the openings of said second plurality of pipette tips;

lowering said transfer member into said container until said projections extend into and engage with said second plurality of pipette tips;

grasping both said transfer member and said second receiving plate with the thumb and forefinger of said user and removing said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips from said container;

positioning said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips over said holding tray such that said second plurality of pipette tips are aligned with said plurality of apertures of said holding tray;

lowering said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips toward said holding tray until said second plurality of pipette tips has been inserted into and engaged with corresponding apertures of said holding tray; and

removing said transfer member from said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips.

11. (New Claim) The method of claim 10, wherein said stack of receiving plates and pipette tips has a first receiving plate positioned on said support means.

12. (New Claim) The method of claim 10, wherein said container has a rectangular cross section defined by said length and width and wherein said first receiving plate has a rectangular shape with dimensions substantially equal to said length and width.

13. (New Claim) The method of claim 10, wherein said stack of receiving plates and pipette tips has a third receiving plate positioned over said second plurality of pipette tips and a third plurality of pipette tips extending through the apertures of said second receiving plate and into the first ends of said second plurality of pipette tips, and wherein said transfer member is used to transfer said third plurality of pipette tips and said third receiving plate from said container to said holding tray prior to transferring said second plurality of pipette tips and said second receiving plate from said container to said holding tray.

14. (New Claim) The method of claim 13, wherein said stack of receiving plates and pipette tips comprises "n" layers of receiving plates and pluralities of pipette tips, and wherein each one of said "n" layers is transferred from said container to said holding tray in a sequential manner, transferring the " i^{th} " layer prior to transferring the " $i-1^{th}$ " layer.